

**Minutes of Special Meeting (Commission Interviews) of March 3, 2014
One Twin Pines Lane #360**

CALL TO ORDER 6:55 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Braunstein, Reed, Stone

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Lieberman

Staff Present: Deputy City Clerk Plut

Interview Candidates for Parks and Recreation Commission, and Consider Appointments

Vice Mayor Braunstein noted that Mayor Lieberman was absent. He indicated that any vote taken would need to be unanimous since the City Council Protocols require three votes to appoint. He stated Mayor Lieberman indicated that if the City Council reached consensus on which candidates to appoint, he had no issue with the Council making its appointment this evening.

Candidates Alex Singer, Carly Hunter, and Jennifer Parascandolo arrived for their panel interview.

Interviews ensued,

RECESS: 7:35 P.M.

RECONVENE: 8:40 P.M.

Thaddeus Block, Stephanie Vargas, Jennifer Coakley, Huan Phan arrived for their panel interview

Interviews ensued.

RECESS: 8:45 P.M.

RECONVENE: 9:30 P.M.

Karl Mittelstadt, Tim Wong, and Carlos Galdeano, arrived for their panel interview.

Interviews ensued.

RECESS: 8:45 P.M.

RECONVENE: 9:30 P.M.

Council Discussion Regarding Park and Recreation Youth Commission Candidates

Councilmember Reed stated that he was very impressed with the poise the youth applications exhibited he stated that Miss Hunter stood out to be his top candidate due to the fact that she

organized the National Night Out event in her neighborhood. He noted that he was impressed with her answers regarding Barrett Community Center.

Councilmember Stone noted that all three candidates had responses that rivaled the ideas of the adult candidates. He noted that Miss Hunter talked about getting the word and awareness of what opportunities are available to the community. He noted that she understand the issues of the community.

Vice Mayor Braunstein stated that he knew Miss Singer as a student at Carlmont. He noted that he was looking for a candidate that would stand out above the rest and Alex was that person. He noted that he was impressed with Miss Hunter's efforts with National Night Out. He noted that Miss Parascandolo did well in answering questions and he would encourage her to reapply next year.

ACTION: On a motion made by Councilmember Stone, seconded by Councilmember Reed, Resolution 2014-033 appointing Alex Singer and Carly Hunter to the Parks and Recreation Commission (Youth) for a one year terms expiring March 2015 was unanimously approved (3-0, Lieberman absent)

Council Discussion Regarding Park and Recreation Youth Commission Candidates

Vice Mayor suggested that Council focus on their top candidates.

Councilmember Stone stated that all were well qualified for the Commission. He explained he had prior interaction with many of the applicants and that he based his decision on the applications and the interviews. He noted that he was impressed with Ms. Vargas because she took time to review Commission minutes and had good ideas in for the Barrett Community Center. He pointed out that Mr. Mittelstadt stood out particularly due to his vision to improve other fields besides those at Sports Complex. He noted that he liked Mr. Mittelstadt's position on Barrett in that it was purchased as an athletic field and should be used as such. He noted that Mr. Phan's energy was inspired and appreciated his statement the he does not know it all and looks forward to finding out. He noted that Mr. Huan did not have any preconceived notions as to issues confronting Belmont Parks and Recreation. He pointed out that Mr. Block wanted to engage the community and develop better ways to communicate with those that do not have email. He appreciated Mr. Block's statement that a commissioner is the face of Belmont.

Councilmember Stone stated that he was impressed with the knowledge that the knowledge that Stephanie had regarding the Brown Act. He noted that she realized that the biggest issue facing the Parks and Recreation Commission was revenue constraints. He explained that her idea of a community event that would bring everyone together is one to be noted.

Councilmember Reed stated that all the applicants are good candidates for the commission. He noted that the Parks and Recreation commission is effective as it stands and he would support reappointing the incumbents. He noted that Mr. Mittelstadt's past experience as Parks and Recreation Director

may cause conflict. He commented that Ms. Vargas had ability to point out the Parks Budget as a constraint and her notion that Belmont is made up of several different groups that are often in conflict. He noted that he would support Mr. Block and Mr. Wong for two of the positions, and was unable to decide between Mr. Mittelstadt and Ms. Vargas

Vice Mayor Braunstein stated that Mr. Block and Mr. Wong stood out. He explained that Mr. Mittelstadt is interested in helping the City and has a good perspective on the issues at hand and would not have a conflict serving on the commission. He pointed out that it is important to give people a chance to serve on a commission or ad hoc committee, and therefore would support appointing an individual who has not served on a commission or committee. He stated that Mr. Block, Mr. Wong, Mr. Mittelstadt and Ms. Vargas are his top candidates.

Discussion ensued regarding Council's top choices.

ACTION: On a motion by Councilmember Reed, seconded by Councilmember Stone, Resolution 2014-034 appointing Thaddeus Block to the Parks and Recreation Commission to a two year term expiring March 2016 was unanimously approved (3-0, Lieberman absent)

Council concurred that the appointment of the two remaining terms would be continued to a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 when all four Councilmembers would be present.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 10:15 p.m.

**Jozi Plut
City Clerk**

Meeting audio-recorded but not videotaped